

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in opposition to Senator Lamb's amendment. He's honest in that it is very simple. It just says it strikes, I think, if I'm looking at it right, three words and a date on line 22 of page 68. And it just has all personal property tax staying exempted. It's really the...I would consider the first, well, probably the second complete policy question we have to answer today. The first was, I think, the amendment that failed to be adopted this morning. The other two that I've put in place, I think, were little twists on it, one being the motor vehicle, and the other being the issue that was just adopted in terms of the formula for determining depreciation. But this one is really the second clear, and probably the most important one we've dealt with so far in terms of how do we go about this process of determining what ultimately will be our tax policy. The question is real simple, it just is, do you want to put everything on, do you want to put everything off, or do you want to do a variation on the theme and leave, as Senator Warner I think offered this morning and tends to offer a little later, having everything come back to square one, where we're currently at right now, so that folks know just what to expect come January 1, 1992? It has been my intention from the very beginning, and I guess my argument is that if you adopt Senator Lamb's amendment, what will happen is that you will, in essence, give the enemies who are out behind the glass the opportunity to drag their heels, sit on their hands and not become a part of any long-term process that, hopefully, will be developed this summer over the interim, and then addressed by this full Legislature next year. I know Senator Schmit feels that that's something that is only within the auspices of the Legislature. But the fact of the matter is that public interest groups are a real player in this area, I mean, tax issues are probably some of the issues that you weed more people out of the woodwork, I guess, than any other issue that comes before the Legislature as a whole. They aren't the most palatable, and they...but they do tend to fill up the Rotunda. I'd just as soon...I heard a great expression, and it's not original with me, Senator Schmit, but I would just as soon keep this in place, because I want those folks to be as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs over the interim, because if you don't keep this proposal in place in terms of having all those exemptions go off, what you allow them to do is simply this, you allow them to play defense. They can sit back and argue why this proposal is no good, why that proposal is no good, and why every other